

Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council Meeting

Friday July 31, 2015

BMCW 635 N. 26 St.

MINUTES

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Members present: Linda Davis, B. Thomas Wanta, Willie Johnson, Jr., Rachel Keith representing Senator Alberta Darling, Susan Gadacz, Libby Mueller for the DA's office, Mallory O'Brien, Chris Holmes, Steve Gilbertson, Judge Mary Triggiano, Kim Kampschroer, State Representative LaToya Johnson, Tony Shields.

Meeting was opened at 12:00 pm by Linda Davis.

Meeting Notice

First, the notice of the meeting was published in the Monday, July 27, 2015 edition of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Second, the notice was faxed to the newspaper of record for the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Journal, on Monday, July 27, 2015. Finally, the notice was emailed to the Partnership Council stakeholders including any media who had requested such notice on Tuesday, July 21. This satisfies the requirements for notice under Wis. Stat. 19.84(1)(b).

Announcements

Partnership Council Orientation will be held on August 18 from noon until 2:00 pm at the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare office at 635 N. 26 St. This meeting is for current as well as new Partnership Council members, but is not a public meeting.

The September Partnership Council meeting will be the Community meeting.

New appointments to the Partnership Council as well as the Partnership Council Chairperson (Linda Davis) and Kim Kampschroer's position are pending review by the Governor.

BMCW is participating in a "Crayons for Kids" drive and is collecting Crayola crayons (8 crayons per pack) in primary colors. If you would rather make a monetary donation, all monies will be used to purchase more crayons. The goal is 1700 packs of crayons.

Congratulations to Judge Mary Triggiano, new Deputy Chief Judge in Milwaukee County.

The Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare together with its partners and other agencies are working together to get more foster kids into the Head Start program. Thank you to everyone who has worked on the project.

Minutes

Minutes from the May 29, 2015 partnership Council meeting were approved as read.

DCF Updates

Milwaukee County and DCF Collaboration and Activities Serving Youth Secretary Eloise Anderson and Milwaukee County Health and Human Services Director Hector Colon shared with the Council the beginning stages of a plan to eventually return the operations of Milwaukee Child Welfare to Milwaukee County. Any such plan must be deliberative and

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collaborative, and not something that is attempted to be done in the short-term. Secretary Anderson expressed her belief that Milwaukee Child Welfare belongs with Milwaukee County so that it has the natural connections and interactions with the other Milwaukee County services that are in place to help the families that come into contact with child welfare. Director Colon stated the County's support of this long-term vision and his desire to continue to work with the Department of Children and Families to make this vision a reality.

Search for Director and New Division

Action on the state biennial budget is complete and allows for the creation of the new Division and hiring the Administrator. DCF received 120 applications for the Administrator position. Secretary Anderson will be looking at the strengths and weaknesses of the applicants and will be asking for help from the Partnership Council members during the interview process. It is hoped that we will have a new Division and Administrator by the end of August.

Lad Lake Program Overview

Representatives from Lad Lake provided an overview of their specialized residential treatment program for commercially exploited youth. The program provides a safe, therapeutic and trauma-sensitive environment for victimized girls. Girls are referred from the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare.

Critical Incident Review Committee Report

Mallory O'Brien distributed the Committee's July Recommendations Summary. All recommendations in the report have been completed. The Committee met today prior to this meeting, and there were no new cases to review. Information is available on the DCF website.

Health and Education Committee

Chris Holmes reported that the Health and Education Committee has been looking at research on children and poverty.

BMCW Interim Directors Report

Acting Director Mary Pat Bohn reported that the Bureau has approximately 300 overdue cases at the current time. We are closing more cases each month.

The second exam for Initial Assessment Specialists was given in July. Two hundred people took the exam, and 105 passed. BMCW will begin interviewing these candidates in August. The Bureau currently has twelve vacancies and received nine additional positions as part of the recently passed budget.

New security additions on the Bureau grounds include automated gates at the entrances to the parking lot. Gates are activated by employees' building access/ID badges. An intercom system will allow visitors to talk to security staff and be buzzed into the lot. Gates are motion sensitive when leaving the lot, and will open automatically. The building garage has new sensors that

provide additional lighting as vehicles move into the area. The implementation of security cameras is being investigated.

Legislation and Other Updates, Fredi Bove

Recent legislative proposals include Assembly Bill 284 which would provide child welfare and juvenile justice workers with the same protections as corrections officers and first responders. Intentionally causing bodily harm to these workers is a Class H felony.

Assembly Bill 193 broadens the relative notification process to include parents of a child's half sibling.

The Department is working on complying with the Federal bill regarding sex trafficking and looking at next steps that need to be taken.

Work is being done to develop a reasonable and prudent standard enabling foster kids to participate in the same type of activities other kids engage in, by giving foster parents the ability to authorize this participation.

Other federal requirements include stronger permanency provisions for teens so they don't age out of the system and specifying the types of documents needed by kids who do age out (social security card, birth certificate, etc.).

Community Forum

Lance Jones from Kids Matter thanked Mary Pat Bohn for her help and involvement with the young adults serviced by Kids Matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Zellner